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“For people with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities.”

February 18, 2016

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES

Submitted by: Jamie Lazaroff, Self-Advocate Coordinator, Arc Quinebaug Valley,
Secretary, Council on Developmental Services

Senator Ostern, Representative Miller, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Jamie Lazaroff. I am a Self-Advocate Coordinator for The Arc Quinebaug Valley, a non-profit agency that provides support and advocacy for children and adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and their families, I am the Secretary to the Council on Developmental Services and I am also on the Board of Directors for Arc CT which is an advocacy organization committed to protecting the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to promoting opportunities for full inclusion in their lives in their communities that they reside in.

I am writing in strong **opposition** to HB 5176. This bill as written is a violation of people with disabilities civil rights. Do you have to register your home with a town or city you live in? NO, so why should people with disabilities that live in a group home? Is this bill intended for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services? However, any bill that tracks where any person with a disability lives and implies that we are not equal citizens is very hurtful and disturbing. This bill as written would severely limit people with disabilities full inclusion in the life of their communities. Please vote no to HB5176 and not let this harmful bill out of this committee.

I would like to paraphrase your colleague Senator Kennedy “We are advocating for civil rights, equality, self-determination and dignity for all citizens of this great state.”

Thank you
Jamie Lazaroff
Self-Advocate Coordinator, The Arc Quinebaug Valley

Secretary, Council on Developmental Services

Board of Directors, Arc CT